

SUBJECTS.

different transactions, was necessary, as otherwise the rules were liable to be misinterpreted. Another change proposed was that the old rules for levying Rs. 2 up to Rs. 500 be continued and that Rs. 3 might be levied from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The old practice of presenting copies of documents along with the originals for registration should be restored, as the present system was likely to give rise to mal-practices.

Mr. Krishnan Mathevan (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) urged the restoration of the old practice of presenting copies of documents with the originals for registration on the following grounds:—

(1) the copying of documents by the gumastas was likely to be done fraudulently to the detriment of the parties concerned;

(2) there was no necessity for adopting the British system here, as the conditions of the British and the Travancore land-owners widely differed;

(3) the office work had been considerably increased and only few documents could be taken for registration and returned on the same day;

(4) there was no record in the Government custody, containing the signature of the parties.

The Member then referred to the irresponsibility of the copyists (document-writers) and suggested that only qualified men should be allowed to write out documents and that a Circular should be issued to the effect that corrections in the documents should be avoided as far as possible and that documents containing corrections in regard to the amount, time, &c. should not be accepted.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Certain hardships caused to the people by the Registration Department and measures for remedying the same.

Mr. Devan Govindan (Member, Quilon taluk) said that the new Registration Rules caused much hardship to the poor people, as the majority of the documents registered were below Rs. 350, and that there was no necessity for increasing the fees as far as the Department was concerned, in that the Department showed a steady increase of revenue from 1080 to 1086.

The Member then pointed out the lack of courtesy and the high-handed way of dealing with things on the part of certain young graduate Sub-Registrars. He also referred to the document-writers and said that they were a greedy set and caused much trouble and loss to the poor, ignorant people who went on business to the offices. The Member prayed for the following remedies:—

(1) that the registration fees might be modified in such a way as to lessen the pressure on the poor people;